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SUBJECT Unrest in the Bulgarian Communist Party

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SOURCE

1. The removal of Vladimir Poptomov from the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs and his transfer to the position of Chairman of Parliament was a formal change which in reality was made by Vulcho Chervenkov because he was afraid that Soviet circles were preparing Poptomov to replace him. In order to oust Poptomov, Chervenkov accused Poptomov during the session of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee of demonstrating a "tepid" stand toward Yugoslavia and the West; of being in sympathy with the policy of Kostov; and of being in close contact with Yugoslav Macedonians. Had Soviet circles not intervened, Poptomov, and probably his close associates, would have been committed to trial by a Peoples' Court. Soviet intervention was the result of their belief that the charges made against Poptomov were caused by personal animosity on the part of Chervenkov.
2. In repeated sessions of the Central Executive Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, violent attacks were made against ministers in the present Government and against cadres of the various regional Communist committees. Charges were made that negligence had been shown in the performance of duties including reconstruction and transportation, the sowing and harvesting of grain and other foodstuffs, the improvement and increase of stock-farming, and failure to prevent the development among the peasantry of an atmosphere of indifference and resistance to measures taken by the state.
3. As the result of these charges, approximately six thousand members of the Party were suspended for not inspiring confidence, and on charges that they entered the Party to sabotage the work of the Government. Those removed were exiled to other areas, and they are now working on reconstruction projects and are under constant observation.
4. In spite of those measures, a current of suspicion and unrest continues in the Bulgarian Communist Party. The fate of Kimon Georgiev cannot be predicted. He has not been arrested as yet, reportedly because of the fear of unfavorable world opinion.

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